

Activity 2.1: What's Different in Senior Leadership Positions

The following list was generated by Small Business Senior Leaders and describes things that are different when you reach a senior leadership position.

- Level of complexity
- Self-motivating mentality
- Moving out of your comfort zone
- Active listening
- Facilitating—bringing out expertise from others
- Continuous learning
- Strategic thinking
- Leading different generations
- Introspection and self-assessment
- Message awareness—on the tip of your tongue
- Public awareness and visibility
- Awareness of the big picture and context within the organization
- Communicating with internal and external stakeholders
- Liaison to media, associations, and Public Affairs
- Communicating with Congress
- Communicating about priorities (vertically and horizontally)
- More public speaking
- Responsible for the daily management of the office (administration and operations)
- Distinguishing between seeking advice and saying “I don't know”
- Different roles in outreach and conferences—keynote speaker, panelist, hosting with other agencies
- Collaborating with Small Business Administration (SBA) Headquarters
- Looking out for your people
- Not just a player, now a player/coach
- Interfacing at a higher level
- Inserting yourself into the larger organization
- Collaborating with fellow leaders and managers
- Working as a part of executive teams
- Making everything happen
- Final decision maker and responsible party
- Making policy
- Perception of subject matter expertise